

The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe

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Honored Toil

By Walter E. Myer

E. A. ROSS, one of the most noted of American sociologists, in his book "New Age Sociology" gives a number of illustrations to describe the scorn which most people of the world have for physical labor. In many countries one who works with his hands is regarded as belonging to a low or dishonored class. Even those who do hand work scorn it. They consider themselves to be inferior to other persons.

"In missionary schools in China the pupils at first refused to bring in chairs for the seating of guests; it was 'coolie work'. In Cuzco, Peru, the ladies of the English mission hospital lost caste with the Peruvian ladies because they had been seen sweeping the walk or dusting the windows. 'They must have been servants in their own country' [thought the Peruvians]. The Chinese in Chengtu inferred that the French officers they saw walking about the streets—instead of being borne in chairs—'must be coolies at home'."

Manual work of certain kinds is looked down upon even in countries which are considered quite democratic. "Outside of this country," says Dr. Ross, "there are no colleges in the world where a student may wait on table without losing status."

In America we have gone farther away from class and caste than most any other people. Only a few, such as Canadians, Australians and a few others approach us closely in that regard.

In this country a high school or college student may pay part or all of his expenses at any kind of honest work he can get. It may be dishwashing, collecting laundry, selling papers, baby sitting, or any of a whole host of occupations. We are so accustomed to that sort of thing that we think nothing about it. But we should think about it, and be proud that we live in a land where social democracy exists to such a great degree.



Walter E. Myer

There are in many schools a few students who feel that they are superior because they do not have to work, but they can be ignored. The schools of America belong to the great mass of American young people, rich or poor; to those who are unashamed of honest toil, whether it be performed in the home, the school or the community.

The schools of which we are proudest are those in which students are judged, not by what work they do on the side, not by the money they have or do not have to spend, not by the occupation of their parents, but by character and ability. Such are the schools which add honor to the name "American"—the name we prize so highly.

Our country needs farmers, manual laborers, doctors, teachers, bankers, merchants, managers, and workers of hundreds of other vocations. It is a great nation because of the cooperation of these many Americans. One useful occupation is as honorable as any other, for each useful citizen is the servant of all.



WHAT WOULD HAPPEN if Uncle Sam stepped away? Most of our leaders fear the results would be serious.

U. S. Crop Surpluses

Can This Troublesome Problem Be Handled in a Way That Will Satisfy Farmers, Consumers, and Taxpayers?

THE United States recently sold almost 32 million pounds of dried eggs to Great Britain. The eggs were part of the huge stores that our government has accumulated since 1947 in its program to help American farmers.

The eggs had originally cost our government approximately \$1.20 a pound, but the British purchased them for about 22 cents a pound. Thus, the U.S.A. lost more than 30 million dollars on the transaction.

Nonetheless, our officials were glad to sell the eggs and would like to sell more at the same price. Even after Britain's big purchase, we still have almost 58 million pounds of dried eggs on hand, about 20 per cent of which are stored in a huge limestone cave near Atchison, Kansas. If we are not able to sell the rest of these eggs, they will eventually spoil and we shall suffer a much greater loss on them than on those we sold to Great Britain.

The egg situation is but one aspect of one of the most troublesome problems confronting our government. That is the problem of dealing with farm surpluses—not only eggs but also wheat, potatoes, cotton, and other products—in a way that will be equally fair to the nation's farmers, to the people who buy and use these products, and to the taxpayers of the country.

Although our government has been

struggling with the problem for some time, the matter has become increasingly serious during the past year. Few of our leaders are completely satisfied with the present method of dealing with farm surpluses. Various suggestions have been made to remedy the situation, but the proposal which has attracted the most attention is the one being advanced by Secretary of Agriculture Charles Brannan. We shall examine the Brannan Plan later in this article.

Farm surpluses have plagued our nation most of the time since World War I, but the present situation is an outgrowth of World War II. During that conflict we needed all the wheat, corn, and other crops we could raise. Consumption in this country increased, and we sent tremendous quantities of food overseas to help feed our allies.

Farmers increased their crop output. They devoted more acres than formerly to crops, and the yield was upped further by the use of modern farm machinery, new varieties of seeds, and improved fertilizers.

During the war and for about three years afterwards, there were no surpluses. Until about 1948 we continued to send huge amounts of farm products abroad. Then as farm output got back to normal in other lands, we could not find uses for everything we were raising. Today other countries do not

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World Trade Is Vital to Canada

Northern Neighbor, With Small Population, Ranks High in Imports and Exports

PREPARATIONS are under way in Toronto for the 1950 Canadian International Trade Fair. At this exposition, which is to last from May 29 to June 9, business firms from widely scattered countries will display their products. The annual event is intended to stimulate world trade.

Exhibits of British products will take up a large part of the space at this year's fair, because Britain is now making an all-out drive to sell more goods in Canada. If the drive is successful, it will help both nations. It can enable Great Britain to earn more money for use in buying Canadian grain and raw materials, and it can help Canada to overcome a trade problem that has been bothering her ever since World War II.

The Canadian trade difficulty is a peculiar one. To understand it, we must examine the nation's sales and purchases in some detail.

In spite of her natural wealth, and the remarkable progress which her industries have made in recent years, Canada must depend heavily upon foreign lands for certain kinds of machinery and other manufactured goods, raw materials, fruits, and vegetables. She has plenty of forest products, grain, meat, minerals, and furs to send abroad. So Canada has become one of the foremost trading nations in the world.

But, with respect to nearly every individual country, her purchases and sales are out of balance. She buys far more from the United States than she exports to us. On the other hand, she sells more to Britain and other overseas lands than she buys from them.

Prior to World War II, this situation did not cause much trouble. The moneys of the various countries could easily be exchanged for one another, so Canada came to depend on a trade

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LOUIS ST. LAURENT is Canada's Prime Minister

Crop Surpluses

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need our farm surpluses or cannot afford to buy them.

Meanwhile, farm production has remained at a high level. In 1949 it reached the highest point in history—almost 40 per cent above the prewar years. Surpluses have piled up in warehouses and storage bins throughout the country.

When the supply of a product exceeds the demand for it, the price paid for the product normally declines. Such, though, has not been the case to any marked degree with farm products. The government has kept the prices from dropping substantially by buying great quantities of crops and removing them from the market. Thus, the surpluses have not driven

specified "support price," the government will take it over at that figure. The government then tries to get rid of the product in any way it can without putting it on the U.S. market. It often has great difficulty in disposing of the farm produce that has been acquired—and that is the reason for the packed warehouses and storage bins throughout the country.

At the beginning of March the United States had more than 4 billion dollars invested in surplus crops. How much it will be able to get back on these items it is impossible to say. In 1949 our government suffered a loss of 255 million dollars on the items it disposed of.

The "price-support" system helps farmers, of course, but it works to the disadvantage of many city people and other users of farm products. They complain that they are not only having to pay high prices for farm products

port price for a certain grade of eggs is 35 cents a dozen. The farmer takes his eggs to market where he is able to get only 27 cents a dozen for them. The government then pays him an additional eight cents—the difference between the market price and the government support price—for every dozen eggs he has sold.

The Brannan Plan would also encourage farmers to produce livestock and additional vegetables, milk, and fruit by making a number of these items eligible for price supports. It would also give to "small" farmers certain benefits that huge farming enterprises would not be eligible to receive.

Although the Brannan Plan was turned down by Congress last year, it is likely to continue to be a major issue for some time. Three main groups are now taking part in the discussion over the farm problem. They

who back the Brannan Plan. The latter two groups agree that the farmer should continue to receive some help from the government.

These two groups disagree, though, on how the farmer should be helped. Those who think the present system offers the best approach argue as follows:

"Despite certain weaknesses, the present policy should not be hastily discarded in favor of some untried scheme which might bring only additional troubles to the nation. The present plan has been defective only in the case of a few crops. It offers a more moderate approach to the farm problem than does either the Brannan Plan or the complete elimination of price supports.

"The Brannan Plan would include more products than does the present program and would be a larger-scale project. That means more controls and regulations. Also, it undoubtedly would be a more costly operation. Our government, under the present system, actually lost only 255 million dollars in 1949. This is not a really big sum of money to keep our large farm population prosperous. No one knows how much the Brannan Plan would cost, but it might be several times as expensive as the present program."

For Brannan Plan

Those favoring the Brannan Plan put forth the following argument:

"There are two ways to insure farmers a fair profit for their products when surpluses drive down prices. One is for the government to buy up the surpluses and keep them off the market until there is a demand for them. This is a cumbersome method, however, for the government has to maintain storehouses at great trouble and expense. Besides, certain perishable products cannot be stored indefinitely.

"A better way is for the government to let farmers who produce perishable products sell them at whatever price they can get. If the price obtained is not a fair profit, then the government can make up the difference. Perhaps the government will have to pay out more money to farmers in this way than it now pays for surplus products. But people will get their food and other farm products cheaper if the government stops buying up agricultural surpluses."

These are the main points of view toward what to do about farm surpluses. Some people, however, would tackle the problem in a still different way. Instead of having the government buy up surpluses, these people think it should pay farmers to reduce their crops. It is argued that this method, which was used in the 1930's, and is still used in an indirect way, would solve the surplus problem and yet the government would not have to be in the business of buying and selling farm products.

Critics of this plan say it is wrong to cut down on production. Surplus agricultural products, they contend, should be stored away so they will be available during a "bad growing year." For example, it is pointed out that droughts and dust storms threaten to cut down farm production this year. If that happens, it is said, the surpluses now in storage will be valuable to the nation.

Farmers and other groups of the population are divided over this question. President Truman favors the Brannan Plan. How the majority of senators and representatives stand on the issue is not known at this time.



FARM SURPLUSES have, in some cases, overflowed our vast storage facilities. What should be done when crops are too large?

prices down as much as they would otherwise have fallen.

Our government holds farm prices up in this way because it feels that agriculture is of such importance to the nation as a whole that the farmer must be assured a fair income. The practice started in the 1930's after many farmers had "gone broke" because of the extreme decline that took place in the prices of wheat, corn, potatoes, and other products.

The plight of the farmer at that time was undoubtedly a big factor in bringing on and prolonging the nation-wide depression. Consequently, it was decided to give special aid to the farmers, and the practice has been continued.

Under the system now in effect, our government guarantees to keep the prices of wheat, cotton, corn, rice, tobacco, peanuts, potatoes, eggs, and a number of other products at a level where the farmer will receive what is considered by the government as a fair income. The exact price (known as the "support price") is figured out separately for each crop. The object is to keep the farmer's purchasing power as high as it was during certain periods in the past when the farmer was experiencing "good times."

If the farmer can't sell his product on the open market for at least the

at the grocery store, but are also having to pay higher taxes to help pay for the products the government is buying from the farmers.

The plan proposed by Secretary of Agriculture Brannan would retain some of the features of the present system. Prices of many farm products would continue to be supported at a level where the farmer would get what the government considered to be a fair income. The government would acquire surpluses of non-perishable crops such as wheat, cotton, and corn just as it is doing now.

In dealing with perishable farm products, though, the Brannan Plan would differ from the present system. These products include potatoes, eggs, butter, and so on. It is the handling of these commodities that has stirred up most of the criticism directed at the present system of price supports.

Under the Brannan Plan, farmers would sell perishable products on the open market for whatever they could get. Under no circumstances would the government acquire these products. However, the government would then make a direct payment to the farmer for the difference between what he had received and the support price decided upon by our officials.

For example, let's say that the sup-

port price for a certain grade of eggs is 35 cents a dozen. The farmer takes his eggs to market where he is able to get only 27 cents a dozen for them. The government then pays him an additional eight cents—the difference between the market price and the government support price—for every dozen eggs he has sold.

People who want to do away with price supports entirely advance these views:

"If we eliminated all aid to farmers, the price of farm products would be set by the law of supply and demand just as the prices of manufactured products are determined. In a time of overproduction, prices would fall, making it easier for people to buy up the surpluses. The government would no longer be in the farm business, and the taxpayers, as well as the users of farm products, would profit. In the long run, farmers themselves would be better off, because the program of government subsidies could easily lead to increased federal control—even to socialization which would strip farmers of their economic freedom."

This point of view is being expressed in certain areas, particularly in some of the large cities. However, very few, if any, congressmen have come out in support of such a policy.

The complete elimination of price supports is opposed by both those who favor the present system and those



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THEY'VE MOVED TO NEW JOBS. Left to right are: Frank Pace, who has become Secretary of the Army; W. Stuart Symington, who is now chairman of the National Security Resources Board; and Frederick Lawton, the new Director of the Budget.

Changes in Important Federal Posts

Six of President's Recent Appointments Discussed

IN the last few weeks, President Truman has shifted some of the men who hold top federal positions to new jobs. Here are some of the men involved in the changes:

Frank Pace was born 38 years ago in Little Rock, Arkansas. He attended local elementary and high schools, and then went to Princeton for his higher education. Upon his graduation from Princeton, Pace studied at the Harvard Law School. After taking his degree from this institution, he returned to Arkansas to enter private practice.

During World War II, Pace served in the Army Air Forces and rose to the rank of major. After his discharge, he held important jobs with the Post Office and Justice Departments and with the Budget Bureau. Before his recent appointment as Secretary of the Army, Pace served as assistant Budget Director and then as Budget Director.

Though a young man, Pace is an efficient administrator and organizer. During the year he was head of the Budget Bureau, he displayed a wide knowledge of governmental problems.

W. Stuart Symington was born in Amherst, Massachusetts, 49 years ago. He attended Yale and upon graduation went to work for a manufacturing concern owned by his family. In 1938, he became the president of a large electrical products company in St. Louis and held this post until 1945, when he became head of the federal agency that sold surplus war goods to the public. In 1946, he was put in charge of aviation activities in the old War Department. A year later he became the first Secretary of the Air Force.

Symington was recently appointed by Mr. Truman to be chairman of the National Security Resources Board because of his good work with the Air Force. The agency which he now heads is responsible for drawing up plans for the way in which the nation's economy would operate in the event of another war.

Frederick Lawton was born in Washington, D. C., 49 years ago. After graduating from a local high school, Lawton went to Georgetown University, where he took a liberal arts course. A year after his graduation from Georgetown, he joined the federal government and has remained in it ever since. Before his recent appointment, Lawton held administrative positions in the Bureau of the Budget.

In his new job as Director of the Bureau, Lawton will help the President draw up the next federal budget and advise him on the problems arising under the present budget.

John Sherman Cooper was born in Somerset, Kentucky, in 1901. After graduating from Yale, he took some courses at Harvard and then returned to his home state to enter politics. In 1946, he was elected to the Senate to fill an unexpired term but he was defeated for re-election in 1948. Several months ago, he was made a member of the U.S. delegation to the United Nations. He still holds this position, but he has also been made an adviser to Secretary of State Dean Acheson.

Cooper is one of two Republicans now serving as official advisers, or "consultants," to the Secretary of State. The other is John Foster Dulles who, like Cooper, was named to

the post in order to obtain the Republican view point on foreign affairs.

Gordon Gray was born in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1909. After graduating from the University of North Carolina, he attended the Yale Law School and graduated with the class of 1933. During the last war, he served in the infantry, rising from the rank of private to that of captain. Until his recent appointment as a special assistant to the President, he was Secretary of the Army.

During the next few months, Gray's job is to study our trade with Western Europe and to draw up a plan for enabling the countries of this area to increase their sales to us, especially after the end of the European Recovery Program in 1952. When Gray concludes this study, he will take over the job of president of the University of North Carolina.

Thomas Finletter was born in Philadelphia in 1893. After graduating from the University of Pennsylvania Law School, he joined a New York firm that specialized in corporation law. Between 1941 and 1944, he was a special assistant to the Secretary of State and, in 1945, he became an adviser to the U.S. delegation at the conference that set up the United Nations. Two years later, he headed a special presidential committee that studied the role of air power in the modern world.

Finletter was named by the President to succeed Symington as Secretary of the Air Force principally because of the notable report that Finletter's air policy committee turned in. Finletter is a firm believer in the importance of a large Air Force.



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ALSO IN NEW POSITIONS are (left to right): John Cooper, who has taken on duties as U. S. Ambassador at Large; Gordon Gray, who is seeking ways to increase foreign sales in this country; and Thomas Finletter, new Secretary of the Air Force.

Readers Say—

A world federation is essential if we are to preserve civilization. Man has reached a point in his history where he must either give up his prejudices and join with others in an effective world organization or go through another "Dark Age" such as he experienced after the fall of Rome. I do not believe there is any alternative.

LOIS LUDWIG,
West Lawn, Pennsylvania

★ ★ ★

I am opposed to the establishment of a world government at this time. In the first place, people are too sharply divided to abide by the laws of a world organization. In the second place, if a world federation were set up and Russia refused to join, a war might break out between the Communist-controlled nations and those countries belonging to the newly established government.

My third objection to a world federation is that it would force people to give up nationalistic customs and ideals which they are not yet ready to discard. In my opinion, it will be many years before the world is ready for an over-all government.

TOM HANDLEN,
McClelland, Iowa

★ ★ ★

Congress should pass the Lodge proposal for changing our electoral system. Under the present law, presidential and vice-presidential candidates do not feel the need of visiting those states that are "safe"—that is, states that continually elect the delegates of one party or another to the Electoral College. The Lodge proposal would compel both parties to divide their attentions more equally during a national election.

HOWARD SIEGEL,
Hackensack, New Jersey

★ ★ ★

I believe that congressmen have the right to support legislation on the basis of its merits and need not uphold every policy put forward by the party to which they belong. After all, when a person affiliates himself with one group or another, he does not commit himself to support the group's entire program. He is merely indicating that he agrees with a majority of the points in that program.

Democracy is based on political freedom and individuality. If party members were to adhere at all times to the policies of their respective organizations, where would our political freedom and individuality be?

RONALD ANTON,
Niagara Falls, New York

★ ★ ★

Evangeline Olson writes that, in order to solve the farm problem, Congress should impose restrictions on the amount of potatoes and other crops that farmers grow, and require that the area of ground they use be limited.

What's America coming to? How much dictatorship, socialism, or communism can we practice and still have democracy?

If Congress had the power to dictate to the farmers, then it could also dictate to business and labor. It could, for instance, tell the steel mills how much coke they should burn; the corporations how many business transactions they were permitted to put over; and the stenographers how many words they were supposed to type.

JOYCE ROWLES,
Clearfield, Pennsylvania

★ ★ ★

We do not believe that Japan should be given its freedom at this time. Eventually, possibly, the country will develop democratic institutions and a real belief in a free way of life. We do not, however, think that the Japanese have either at present.

There is, of course, some "lip-service" to democracy, but if we moved our troops out of Japan right now, the radicals would soon take over and the country would join up with Communist Russia.

WIN KUEHL,
DICK BRYCK,
Manistee, Michigan

★ ★ ★

(Correspondence from our readers or foreign students should be addressed to Letter Column, THE AMERICAN OBSERVER, 1733 K Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C.)

The Story of the Week

Mexican Highway

A new 2,177-mile highway will be formally opened in Mexico early next month. According to Mexican officials, the opening will be celebrated chiefly by an international automobile race. All participants in the competition will be required to travel the entire distance of the highway regardless of the weather conditions they find en route. Before they finish the trip, the drivers will have gone through all kinds of terrain, ranging from arid deserts and broad plateaus to high mountains.

Some portions of the new highway were actually built several years ago but until recently they did not make one continuous road. As it is now constructed, the highway extends from Ciudad Juarez, which is on the American border, to El Ocotil, a small village on the Mexican-Guatemalan frontier.

The Mexican thoroughfare considerably lengthens the Pan American highway system, which was begun many years ago but which still has many "gaps," principally in Central America. When the system is completed, automobile and truck drivers will be able to travel without "interruption" from Alaska to Rio de Janeiro, a distance of almost 16,000 miles.

Celebration in Indiana

The state of Indiana is planning a large number of events this summer in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Indiana Territory. The governors of several neighboring states and, possibly, President Truman will deliver special ad-



NEW YORK CITY celebrates the Holland Bulb Festival with a model of a Dutch windmill surrounded by tulips. The display is on the plaza at Rockefeller Center.

resses at ceremonies that will be held in Vincennes, the first capital of the territory.

A special Indiana commission is assembling early territorial documents and other interesting historical items and will display them for several months in cities and towns throughout the state. For its part, the Post Office Department will issue a special stamp in honor of the organization of the Indiana Territory.

The United States Congress authorized the formation of the Indiana Territory on July 4, 1800, thereby breaking up the Northwestern Territory, of which the Indiana Territory was a part. The states that comprised the Northwestern Territory were Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin,



NO LONGER THE "SMOKY CITY." Pittsburgh, through its smoke-control campaign, has made its air 65 per cent cleaner, and has increased visibility conditions for aircraft by 75 per cent. It took eight years to accomplish these results, but the city is proud of the work its Bureau of Smoke Prevention has done.

Ohio and part of Minnesota. The Indiana Territory consisted of Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, and parts of Michigan and Minnesota.

Turkish Elections

Elections are to be held some time next month in Turkey to select the members of a new National Assembly. Under the terms of a recently adopted law, all elections from now on in Turkey are supposed to be secret and free, and the people may vote for any candidates they wish. Some commentators, however, are doubtful whether the law will be put into effect.

According to these persons, the Turkish government has been ruled by a single party—the People's Party—ever since the formation of the Turkish republic after World War I. This party, they argue, will not willingly give up the power it now possesses.

Other observers believe that the People's Party leaders are sincere when they say that the elections next month will be completely free. These leaders, it is argued, wish to strengthen the country and they realize that they can do so only if they grant the population a certain amount of democracy.

In addition to the People's Party, the groups that will take part in the elections during May are the Democratic and the Nation's Parties. The Democratic Party supports the present government's policy of friendly relations with the United States and agrees with much of its home program. It favors some social reform, however, and the repeal of a law that prohibits strikes by trade unions.

The Nation's Party has not made its position clear as we go to press.

Labor Unity?

Are the major labor organizations in this country ready to form into one great trade union federation? This question is being asked today as a result of recent statements by several powerful labor leaders.

A few weeks ago, Philip Murray, the president of the Congress of Industrial Organizations, addressed letters to the American Federation of Labor, the United Mine Workers, the International Association of Machinists, the railroad brotherhoods, and other trade union groups. In the

letters, Murray proposed that a joint committee be set up as soon as possible to work out a common program of action on economic and political issues. He also proposed that an effort be made, in the future, to form a single trade union federation with which all labor groups would affiliate.

Shortly after receiving Murray's appeal, William Green, head of the AFL, and John L. Lewis, the mine workers' chief, indicated that they might favor the idea of a joint committee, if not the proposal to merge the nation's trade unions into one big organization.

We may know before long whether the American labor movement is willing to work together on common problems and whether it is prepared to be united organizationally. Several of the country's most important unions are scheduled to hold membership or executive board meetings soon, and Murray's proposals are certain to be taken up.

Young Skating Star

Tenley Albright, the 14-year-old Boston girl who recently won the National Ladies' Junior Figure Skating Championship, has been cutting intricate patterns on ice since she was eight. Under the direction of her coach, Willie Frick, she practices several hours a day during the skating season and spends part of the summertime perfecting her routine.



TENLEY ALBRIGHT, of Boston, Massachusetts, overcame infantile paralysis to become National Ladies Junior Figure Skating champion.

Tenley won her first contest—the eastern girls' juvenile singles—when she was 11. Between that time and now, she has captured a large number of titles in New England and elsewhere along the East Coast, in addition to taking the national junior championship. She won her first national competition last year, when she became the ladies' novice champion.

Tenley is a student at the Choate School, a private educational institution in Brookline, a suburb of Boston. In a letter she recently wrote to THE AMERICAN OBSERVER, she expresses her gratitude to her principal for allowing her to be absent from school while taking part in contests away from home. "Without my principal's understanding," she says, "I could not continue my skating career."

When she was 11, Tenley was stricken with poliomyelitis. For a time, it looked as if she might not walk again, much less skate. Paralysis, however, did not set in and she was able to leave the hospital in about a month.

Besides skating, Tenley's chief interest is her studies. At present, she hopes to become a doctor.

Hopeful Development

Officials in Washington are heartened by an agreement that was recently signed by the prime ministers of India and Pakistan regarding the treatment of religious minorities within their respective countries. The agreement was reached principally because of the danger of war that has been hovering over the former British colony in recent months.

People in both India and Pakistan have been particularly aroused to hostility toward one another as a result of a number of serious riots in Bengal, a province that is divided between Pakistan and India. As a result of these riots, hundreds of Moslems and Hindus were killed or injured while many others lost their homes and property. About a half million members of the Moslem religion moved from India to Pakistan because of the fighting, and a like number of Hindus moved from Pakistan to India. (The people of India are mostly Hindus and the Pakistanis are mostly Moslems.)

Under the terms of their agreement, the two countries promise to respect

the rights of all minorities in their respective areas, and to prevent the occurrence of religious riots. The two countries also agree to set up special commissions to investigate the fighting that took place in Bengal and determine who its instigators were. The latter will be punished to the fullest extent of the law while the victims of the riots will receive compensation for their property losses and injuries.

In the opinion of many observers, if India and Pakistan abide by this pact, the way will be cleared for the settlement of other issues now causing friction between the two countries. One of these is the status of Kashmir, a province in the northern part of the former British colony. Both India and Pakistan want the area and have even sent troops into the region to enforce their claims. The UN Security Council has appointed a mediator—Sir Owen Dixon of Australia—to see if he can resolve the dispute and to arrange for an election to determine who will get the province.

Thriving City

It is predicted that Sao Paulo, Brazil, may be the largest city in Latin America within the next 50 years. The population of Sao Paulo is already about two million. By the year 2000, it is expected to be approximately four million, if not more.

Sao Paulo, at present, is the second largest city in Brazil and is its greatest industrial and financial center. Within Sao Paulo's borders are textile mills, machine shops, and garment factories. Scores of banks and other financial institutions are to be found in the city's downtown business section.

Sao Paulo is similar in many respects to big cities in the United States. Many of its office buildings, for instance, are very tall, rising to 20 and 30 stories in height. Its businessmen are industrious and ever eager to try out new ideas.

There is even a section in Sao Paulo that is called "Brooklyn," after the famous borough of that name in New York City. The inhabitants of the



THREE-IN-ONE. Shoes with one back and three sets of fronts have been developed by German manufacturers. The front and back sections are connected by a metal lock (shown on the shoe at the left). Manufacturers say the lock cannot be felt by the foot.

Brazilian "Brooklyn" are former residents of the United States and Great Britain who are now engaged in various business enterprises in the Sao Paulo area.

Lawmakers' Incomes

Members of Britain's House of Commons have cause to look with envy at members of the U. S. Congress. From the financial point of view, at least, they believe our lawmakers have an easy time of it.

American senators and representatives receive salaries of \$15,000 a year. In addition, they are provided with furnished offices, secretaries and clerks, stationery, telephone service, and the privilege of sending business mail without paying postage.

Members of Parliament receive only \$2,800 a year. They are not given office space, office help, or telephone service. While they are supplied with letter paper and envelopes, they have to pay for stamps out of their own pockets.

But British MP's do have one advantage over American lawmakers. They may take as many trips back to their constituencies as they wish, and at government expense. Our congressmen receive only one round-trip ticket each session for travel between their home districts and Washington, D. C.

Fine Western

"Wagonmaster" is one of the finest western pictures to come out of Hollywood in some time. Under the direction of John Ford, the film tells the story of a group of Mormons who have left Utah and are trying to reach a valley in which to settle that is located much farther West. In the course of its travels, the group undergoes a number of suspenseful adventures and, for a time, it looks as if it will not achieve its goal.

The cast of "Wagonmaster" is exceptionally good. As the leader of the settlers, Ward Bond plays an unusually sympathetic character. As the wagonmaster on the journey, Ben Johnson is, in turn, bold and cautious, depending on the situation. Harry Carey, Jr., Joanne Dru, Charles Kemper and Alan Mowbray also give notable performances.

Huge rubber igloos are being used by the Air Force to house radar equipment. Made of 2,000 yards of rubber-coated glass fabric, the igloos are held up by air pressure, instead of by posts as are other buildings. They will fold up in a package small enough to be carried in a pick-up truck, and can be blown up by a vacuum cleaner.

An aluminum ring around the bottom of the igloos keeps them airtight. They may be wired with electricity, and withstand violent storms.

—By DAVID BEILES.

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A few copies of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER's special issue honoring the 150th birthday of Washington, D. C., are available. They may be obtained from THE AMERICAN OBSERVER, 1733 K Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C. Enclose 5 cents in coin or stamps for each copy ordered.

From Indonesia

Students Speak

INDONESIA, under Dutch rule for about 350 years, is now one of the world's newest independent nations. It won an acceptable agreement for self-government from the Netherlands only last winter, after more than three years of bitter dispute and open fighting.

The full name of the new state is the United States of Indonesia. It is made up of 16 states located on a string of Pacific islands formerly known as the Dutch East Indies. The population is about 76 million, most of whom are very poor. Improving the standard of living and ending attacks by rebel bands, who want to overthrow the government, are Indonesia's two great problems today.

To get a better idea of this new country we asked two Indonesia students visiting in this country to tell us about it. The two are Sabam Siagian, 18, who wants to be a diplomat when he finishes school, and Soesilo Sardadi, 17, who served with a student army in the war to end Dutch rule. The following is what they told THE AMERICAN OBSERVER:

"Indonesia has succeeded in winning its own government and an end to Dutch rule. However, many difficulties still lie ahead.

"The lack of education is one problem we are seeking to solve. We do not have enough teachers, schools, textbooks and other equipment. So not all of our young people can attend classes. At the very most, 25 per cent of the Indonesians, between the ages of 6 to 18, are going to school.

"Those who go to school, however, follow national and international issues very closely. We know that we



SOESILO SARDADI and Sabam Siagian of the United States of Indonesia

are not one of the big powers. We must pay attention to what other countries are doing.

"Getting information to all of the people of our country is very difficult. Radio sets are expensive. Few people have them, and so many cannot listen to broadcasts over the government operated station. Newspapers often have only a single sheet. And since many of our people cannot read, these do not go very far toward keeping the nation informed. For those of us who read English, the opening of the U. S. Information Service Library in our country has been a help.

"We have many problems to solve. But we also have the resources in tin, oil, rubber, and quinine that should help us quickly to improve our position. We have made a start."

THE LIGHTER SIDE

Father: "Get up, Junior. Do you know what Abraham Lincoln was doing when he was your age?"

Son: "No. But I know what he was doing when he was your age."

Don: "What has six legs, a brown head and a body with green and black spots?"

Bob: "I give up. What?"

Don: "I don't know either, but it's crawling down your neck."



HUNT IN SATURDAY EVENING POST
"I guess I'm just not interested"

A fanatic is one who can't change his opinion and won't change the subject.

"Dad, this article says the man was a financial genius. What does that mean?"
"It means that he could earn money faster than his family could spend it."

Mother (to young son): "Tommy hasn't come to the party. Did you invite him, as I told you to?"

Son: "Yes, mother, I not only invited him to come, I dared him."

Three boy scouts reported that they had done a good deed—they had helped a lady across the street.

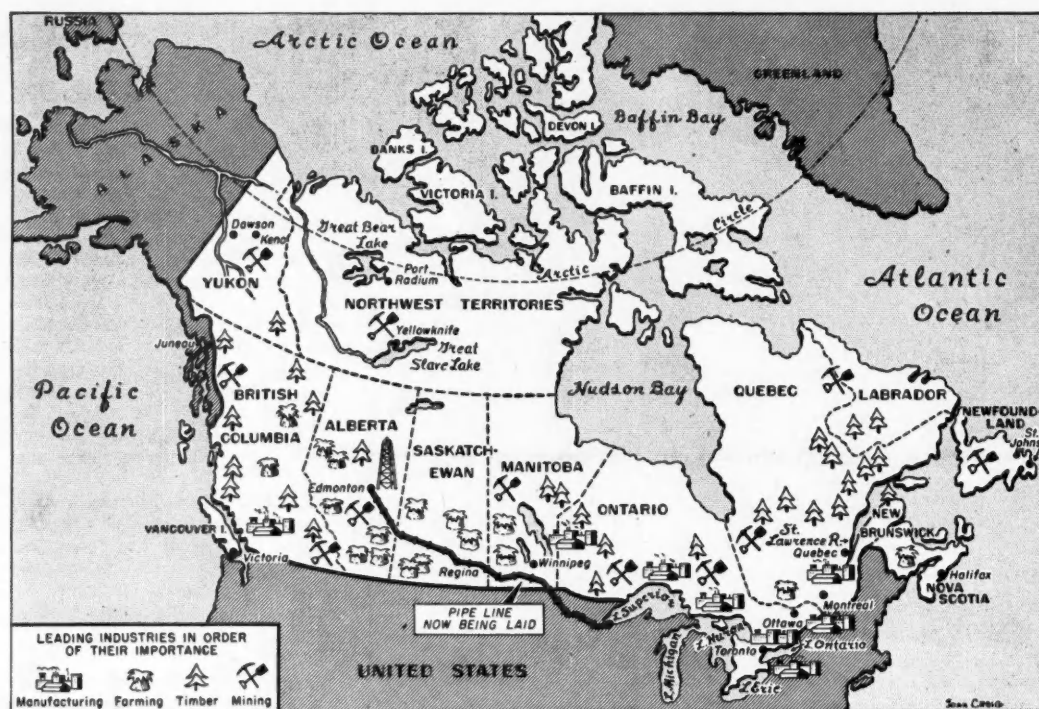
"Yes," said the scoutmaster, "that was a good deed. But why did it take all three of you?"

"Because," explained one of the trio, "she didn't want to go."

Eddie was by far the laziest and most inefficient person in the office. One day a customer noticed that he was absent and asked about him.

"We fired Eddie," said the manager. "Have you anyone in mind for the vacancy?" queried the customer.

"No," replied the manager. "The fact is Eddie didn't leave a vacancy."



CANADA, lying to the north of the United States, is our best foreign customer, and it sells us more than does any other nation.

Canada

(Concluded from page 1)

pattern known as the "Atlantic Triangle." She sold vast quantities of goods to the nations across the Atlantic, and through these sales she obtained U.S. dollars with which to make purchases in the United States.

Since World War II, however, the system has not been working properly. That conflict did severe damage to British and European economies, and made it impossible for the nations across the Atlantic to earn even enough U.S. money for their own use. Those nations have continued to suffer from their "dollar shortage," so Canada cannot easily obtain U.S. money by selling goods to them. Therefore Canada, rich and productive as she is, has been unable to get as many American dollars as she needs.

This situation became particularly severe in 1947. So in November of that year the Canadian government clamped rigid restrictions on the purchase of U.S. goods, and it limited the amount of money that Canadian tourists could spend in our country. At the same time, the northern nation sought to step up her sales to the United States, as a means of increasing her U.S. dollar earnings.

Since 1947, Canada's trade position has improved considerably. In part, the improvement has been due to the restrictions that she adopted, and to a rise in sales to the United States. In part also, it has been a result of the European Recovery Program. Up to the end of January 1950, European nations had arranged to spend in Canada over a billion U.S. dollars out of their ERP grants.

Last year the Canadian government was able to relax many of its restrictions on the spending of U.S. dollars, and still more are being lifted this year. But Canadian tourists will continue, at least until November, to be limited in the amount of money they can bring to our country.

Meanwhile, Canadians are being urged to buy a larger portion of their foreign goods from Great Britain, be-

cause they still purchase far less from that nation than they sell to her. It is for this reason that the representatives of British manufacturing firms are to receive a cordial welcome at the Toronto trade fair next month.

Undoubtedly, though, Canada will remain our country's biggest single customer, as well as our largest single foreign supplier. We, likewise, shall probably continue as her biggest customer and supplier. In 1949, Canada sent about half of her exports to the United States; and—in spite of the dollar restrictions—our country furnished over two thirds of the foreign goods that she purchased.

It is only natural for trade between these two prosperous neighbors—the United States and Canada—to be extremely heavy. They are closely related in other respects, too. Any military danger to one, for instance, is a threat to the other. Canada lies across the shortest air route between continental United States and Russia, and if there is ever a Russo-U.S. war she is bound to become involved. Moreover, if an enemy ever seizes a foothold in Canada, it will have convenient bases for launching attacks against the United States.

U.S. and Canadian defense chiefs, realizing these facts, are cooperating closely. Military forces from the two nations have held joint maneuvers in the Far North and elsewhere.

From time to time, such matters as trade and joint defense give rise to arguments between Canada and the United States. In general, however, these two countries have established a tradition of friendship and peaceful cooperation that might well serve as an example to all the world.

Early this year, for instance, they signed a new agreement on the use of Niagara River water for hydroelectric power, and on preservation of Niagara Falls' scenic beauty. The famous river and falls lie along the international boundary. There was not much publicity or fanfare when the treaty was signed, because the working out of friendly U.S.-Canadian agreements is a common occurrence.

Although she is one of the world's largest nations in land area, Canada

has a comparatively small population—only about 14 million. Most of her people live along the southern edge of the country; in fact, 90 per cent are within 250 miles of the U.S. border. Like the people of our own land, Canadians are descended from a great variety of nationalities.

There are two principal language groups, French and English. The French-speaking Canadians, centered mainly in the big eastern province of Quebec, make up about a third of the population. The English-speaking group, though much larger, does not constitute all the rest of the nation. Many other tongues besides the two prevailing ones are to be found. Newspapers in about two dozen languages are printed in the city of Winnipeg.

Canada covers more area than do our 48 states and Alaska combined, and her different geographic regions offer great variety. Her Atlantic and Pacific coasts support large fishing industries. Near the Great Lakes is a thriving manufacturing section. On the flat prairies, farther west, Canada produces vast quantities of meat and grain; and stretches of good farm land are found in many other parts of the nation.

The Canadian Rockies, which extend northward from our own Rocky Mountain chain, rise majestically in the

western provinces and territories. Across the northern part of the country lies a great arctic and sub-arctic wilderness, some of which has not even been thoroughly explored.

Agriculture, says the Canadian government, is Canada's most important single industry, and about one quarter of the population is engaged in farming. Wheat and other grains, potatoes, apples, dairy goods, beef cattle, hogs, and sheep are among the important farm products.

Meanwhile, Canada is becoming prominent as a manufacturing nation. She has, for instance, an automobile industry which last year turned out nearly 300,000 cars and trucks. In 1947, she ranked second among the nations of the world in production of aluminum, and in 1948 she ranked third in output of electricity. Also among her products are steel, textiles, chemicals, and various kinds of machinery. Her farms, moreover, support big milling, canning, and meat-packing industries.

The fur trade brought many early settlers to Canada, and it still provides an important source of livelihood—particularly for the Indians of the Far North. There are numerous farms that raise fur-bearing animals, but most Canadian furs are obtained by hunters and trappers.

Forests, covering more than a third of Canada's land area, furnish some of her main exports—paper and lumber. Minerals constitute still another source of wealth. For many years the nation's mines have been giving forth large quantities of silver, copper, nickel, lead, and other metals. And since World War II, Canada has become famous for her ore deposits of the basic atomic-energy material—uranium.

The province of Alberta, which adjoins our own state of Montana, is experiencing a big oil boom, and experts say that it may prove to have some of the best oil fields in the world.

An area along the Quebec-Labrador boundary is rich in iron, but that northeastern region is very remote. It may take a long time for a large-scale mining industry to develop there. Labrador, on the mainland, and Newfoundland, a nearby island, became part of Canada last year. Previously, they belonged to Great Britain.

Canada herself is entirely free and self-governing. Like Australia and several other countries, she is a loyal member of the Commonwealth of Nations, associated under the British Crown. But the membership is voluntary and it does not limit her independence.

Your Vocabulary

Italicized words below appeared recently in Current History. Match each with the following word or phrase whose meaning is most nearly the same. Answers are given on page 8, column 4.

1. There was *virtually* (vur'tū-uh-li) no opposition. (a) unfortunately (b) surprisingly (c) fortunately (d) practically.
2. An *inept* (in-ēpt') remark is (a) brief and to the point (b) awkward and out of place (c) extremely vague.
3. If you *censure* (sēn'shur) someone you (a) blame him (b) praise him (c) prevent him from expressing his opinion (d) assist him.

4. The meeting was *convoked* (kōn-vōkd'). (a) broken up (b) criticized (c) postponed (d) called.
5. They *disavow* (dis-ah-vow') the plan. (a) seriously discuss (b) are inclined to favor (c) deny responsibility for (d) misunderstand.
6. If you *forestall* (fōr-stawl') someone, you take action in advance to (a) help him (b) learn what he is going to do (c) hinder him (d) find a place for him.
7. To *acquiesce* (āk-wi-ēs') in a decision is to (a) accept it enthusiastically (b) accept it without necessarily approving (c) object to it (d) ignore it completely.

Student Projects

City Planning

SINCE 1945, students of the Senior High School, Bradford, Pennsylvania, have been helping the city's planning commission draw up plans for Bradford's development. Each year the senior class makes an intensive study of some aspect of the city's needs. Reports are transferred to the planning commission for its use.

The first class to work on the project made a general survey of conditions in Bradford and listed some of the major problems. In succeeding years the classes have, in turn: made a survey of how land within the city was used; studied zoning regulations to see what changes might be recommended; made a city plan with areas for industries, residences, and other purposes; and surveyed the need for flood control devices.

John Anderson, who reports on this, says that student recommendations are "to be thought of as suggestions only," but he believes the project has succeeded in stimulating interest in Bradford's problems.

★ ★ ★

AMERICAN history students in the Senior High School, Billings, Montana, are taking part in a Workshop in Economics. The workshop was established as a result of a similar project held at the University of Minnesota under the direction of the Joint Council on Economic Education.

The project's aim is to bring local citizens, including students, together to discuss economic problems as they affect everyday life. Professors from nearby colleges, lawyers, editors, labor leaders, bankers, and advertising men are among the speakers. An evening is given to each of the major topics, and the formal lectures are followed by question-and-answer periods.

Such topics as the following have been scheduled: the National Income and How It May Be Increased; Money and Banking and Their Places in Our Economy; The Share of the Farmer in Our Income; Public Lands and the Problems of Conservation; Taxes; The Share of the Worker in the National Income.

The Workshop emphasizes the fact that citizens of the United States are free to search for the truth, to interpret facts as they see them, and to challenge the opinion of others. The discussions are an attempt to develop an informed public capable of thinking together in the interest of all.

According to J. C. Ragsdale, Principal of Senior High School, participation in the workshop is voluntary, but academic recognition is given to students who take part in the discussions.

★ ★ ★

RECOGNIZING the need for water coolers in the school, the Student Council of Cuero High School, Cuero, Texas, undertook to try to supply the coolers. Turkeys were raffled off at Thanksgiving; and to top the money-raising drive a basketball game was staged between the men of the faculty and players from the senior class.

Vernon Breikreutz reports that the water coolers are now in place and that "doubtless there are countless words of heartfelt thanks as the students drink the ice-cold water while the hot Texas sun blazes outside."



TULIPS are a "big business" in Holland

World Tulip Center

The Netherlands, Densely Populated European Nation, Exports Millions of Dollars' Worth of Bulbs Each Year

IT'S "tulip time" in Holland, the Kingdom of the Netherlands. All through April and for a good part of May, one may see great fields of fresh-blooming tulips in rich reds, gay yellows, deep browns and purples. The fields spread through an area of about 500 square miles, southward from the city of Haarlem, in a seemingly endless mass of lovely color. That country leads the world in tulip production.

Thousands of tourists visit the Netherlands for the tulip display each year, and the money they spend brings welcome income to the country. Sale of the tulip bulbs to foreign countries is an even greater source of income.

The United States bought about eight million dollars' worth of the Netherlands' tulip bulbs last year. England buys larger quantities than we do, and sales all over the world

North Sea on the north and west. The country is only 13,440 miles square, or approximately a third larger than Maryland. Almost all the land is flat. About half is below the level of the sea, and must be protected by dikes.

The population of about 10 million is crowded into the country so there is an average of 734 persons to the square mile. In some industrial areas this density is more than 1,600 persons per square mile.

Up to the time of World War II, Holland ranked as one of the world's richest nations. Exploration and colonization laid the groundwork for this wealth in the 16th century. Diamonds were brought from Africa to make Amsterdam, the capital city, a great international center for the cutting, polishing, and sale of the precious stones. Holland occupied the East Indies, in the Pacific, about 1595. Tin, oil, and rubber from these islands helped to swell Dutch wealth.

The Nazis occupied the Netherlands in World War II, and restoration of the country's prosperous economy was extremely difficult after the war ended. The East Indies won their independence, and this has reduced trade with Holland. Troubles have been met in resuming trade with Germany.

Nevertheless, great progress has been made toward recovery in the last few years. Industrial production is higher than before the war. Trade in general, through cooperation in the Marshall Plan for European recovery, is gradually being rebuilt.

Elderly Queen Wilhelmina, who ruled Holland for 50 years, left the throne on September 6, 1948, and handed over responsibilities of the monarchy to her daughter, Juliana. With the queen as head of state, constitutional government is carried on by a prime minister, cabinet, and legislature. The country is proudly democratic.

The first complete dictionary of the Hebrew language is nearly finished. The last two volumes are being printed by the government of Israel, which is encouraging its people to use Hebrew. Many new words have been added to the ancient tongue to describe objects unknown when the language was used centuries ago.



HOLLAND is shown in black

make tulips a big item in the Netherlands' export trade. (In our country, Holland, Michigan, is the center of tulip production. The town, settled in 1847 by Dutch immigrants, holds a tulip festival in May each year.)

While tulips are a big industry in the little European country, the Netherlands is important for many other things. In 1948 it was the third largest shipbuilding nation in the world. Its fleet of merchant ships is fourth largest. KLM, the Dutch airline, is one of the oldest in existence and flies over most of the world's travel routes.

Vegetables, fruits, bacon, butter, and eggs are sold to European nations. Edam, a tasty Holland cheese, is known almost everywhere. Textiles, machinery, radios and electric light bulbs are important manufactured items.

Holland borders Belgium on the south, Germany on the east, and the

Science News

Navy subs have been making headlines recently. Not long ago, a snorkel submarine—the *Pickrel*—made the 5,200-mile trip from Hong Kong to Hawaii without once "coming up for air." The snorkel is a tube-like breathing device which reaches the surface of the water and allows a submarine to remain submerged for long periods of time. The snorkel takes in fresh air and lets the exhaust gases created by the engines escape. The supply of air allows the sub to run on Diesel engines.

U-boats which do not have a snorkel must run on batteries while submerged. They must surface occasionally and use their engines to recharge their batteries.

More recently, the Navy announced the development of two new types of underwater craft. The first is a tiny "killer" sub whose purpose is to locate and destroy enemy submarines. The other new underwater ship is a "fast attack" boat designed to fight surface vessels. It, too, is equipped with a snorkel.

★ ★ ★

Three common weeds—native to Central America—are said to be a "vast, untapped source of food." The weeds contain large amounts of vitamin C, calcium, iron, and other minerals which are necessary for good health. These facts were discovered by scientists at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who made a three-year study of more than 200 plants collected in Central America.

The scientists also made a study of parsley. This plant, say the researchers, should be eaten when it is served with other foods, for it contains large amounts of calcium, iron, vitamin B-2, niacin, and other health-giving substances.

★ ★ ★

The American Optical Company has perfected a spectacle lens which is as durable as an auto windshield. The lens, it is said, will not shatter or splinter into dangerous flying pieces of glass as will an ordinary lens. It is made of a sandwich-like material—a tough plastic substance between two layers of glass. The company states that the new material will be especially well adapted for athletes and for children who must wear glasses.

—By HAZEL L. ELDRIDGE.



IT FOLDS UP for storage. This new German motor bike is built for adults. The entire contrivance can be folded and carried in a rucksack or stored in any small space.

Careers for Tomorrow - - Home Economics

HOME economists say there's a career in their field "for practically every type girl: the artistic, the businesslike, the science-minded, the home-body, the born teacher, the crusader. . . ." And, indeed, it seems that this is true. The young woman who takes a college degree in home economics can go into journalism or business, into teaching or child guidance work.

The field that she chooses will depend upon her own particular abilities, but always she will be dealing with work that is closely related to home and family life. As a journalist, she will write on foods, on home decoration, or on family problems for newspapers, magazines, or radio.

On going into business, a young home economist might work with a company that makes home appliances or processes foods. Or she might work with a bank or other finance company where she would advise on the management of money.

In the field of research, a young person would test home appliances to determine their qualities. Or she might help to develop new products—mechanical gadgets, materials for clothing, food preparations, and so on. As a child guidance expert, she would work with a school, a welfare agency, or health clinic.

Each of these fields and the many others that are open to the home economist require special abilities. The journalist must be able to write clearly and effectively. The business woman must have administrative ability. A researcher must have an analytical and imaginative mind, and she

must be careful about details. To succeed in child guidance work, a young woman must be patient and tactful.

Each of the fields also requires its own educational background, but all have their foundation in the basic home economics work given by many colleges and universities.

A high school student who plans to



EVEN television needs home economists

take work in home economics should, then, have the general college preparatory course, with emphasis on science, mathematics, art, and home economics itself. During her first two years in college she will broaden her general educational background by studying English, history, sociology, economics, foreign languages, chemistry, hygiene, and possibly mathematics. She will also start her basic home economics work with beginning courses in de-

sign, textiles, foods, nutrition, family relationships, and related subjects.

During the last two years of her college work, she will do concentrated study or "major," in one of the branches of broader field. She may specialize in textiles and clothing; in practical art (costume design, advertising and merchandising, and interior decoration); in extension work; in institutional management; in foods and nutrition; or in one of numerous other branches of the field.

Opportunities for jobs in any one of the branches of home economics are increasing constantly, and often the colleges and universities help their graduates find positions.

The beginner should not, however, expect to find a job that pays a high salary immediately. She will probably only earn \$35 a week, but she will be able to gain experience that will make her valuable to an employer later. The amount she earns eventually will depend upon her ability. Salaries sometimes go as high as \$10,000 a year.

The American Home Economics Association, 700 Victor Building, Washington 1, D. C., has a number of vocational publications in this field. Some are free, and there is a small charge for others. The free pamphlets and a list of those for which charge is made will be sent on request. The Division of Vocational Education, U. S. Office of Education, Washington 25, D. C., publishes a list of colleges and universities offering work in home economics. This is available on request. Ask for Misc. 2557, "Home Economics in Degree-Granting Institutions."

—By CARRINGTON SHIELDS.

Study Guide

Canada

1. Explain why Canada has been experiencing trade difficulties in recent years.
2. What steps has she taken in an effort to overcome these difficulties?
3. Why are Canada and the United States particularly important to one another from a military standpoint?
4. About how many people does Canada have? Compare her area with that of the United States.
5. What are her two principal language groups? Which is the larger?
6. Name several of Canada's chief products. What are some of her large manufacturing industries?

Discussion

On the basis of your present information, why do you think Canada and the United States have gotten along so well together while other large nations that border one another so often fight and quarrel?

Crop Surpluses

1. Trace briefly the development of our nation's present problem of farm surpluses.
2. If the government had taken no action, what effect would these surpluses have had upon the prices of agricultural products?
3. Explain the system of price supports that is now operating.
4. Why do many people who live in cities complain about this system?
5. Tell how Secretary Brannan's program for handling agricultural prices would operate.
6. What arguments are advanced by people who want to do away entirely with price supports?
7. On what grounds is the present system of price supports being defended?
8. Give arguments that are used by advocates of the Brannan Plan.

Discussion

1. Do you or do you not favor any form of price supports for farm products? Explain your position.
2. If you favor such supports, do you prefer the present system, the Brannan Plan, or some other arrangement? Give reasons for your answer.

Miscellaneous

1. When was the Indiana Territory organized?
2. Describe the proposal that Philip Murray of the CIO recently made to other important labor leaders.
3. What do you think of the proposal? Do you think it would be harmful to the country, or beneficial? Give reasons for your answer.
4. List two of the provisions of the agreement that was recently reached between the prime ministers of India and Pakistan.
5. What is the population of Sao Paulo?
6. About how long will the Pan American highway be after it is completed?
7. Briefly describe the election law that was recently passed by the Turkish National Assembly.

References

"Canada" by S. W. Morrell, *Holiday*, August 1949. Description of the land and people.

A package of material about Canada can be obtained by teachers free of charge from Information Office, Canadian Embassy, 1746 Massachusetts Ave., N. W., Washington, D. C.

Congressional Digest, March 1950. Background material, and pro-and-con discussion, on the Brannan Plan.

"1950's Never-Normal Granary," *Business Week*, March 4, 1950. Crop surpluses.

Answers to Your Vocabulary

1. (d) practically; 2. (b) awkward and out of place; 3. (a) blame him; 4. (d) called; 5. (c) deny responsibility for; 6. (c) hinder him; 7. (b) accept it without necessarily approving.

Historical Backgrounds - - Aid for Farmers

GOVERNMENT aid to the American farmer, so often debated these days, began more than 300 years ago. King James I of England probably started it in 1622 when he paid colonial farmers for growing mulberry trees and breeding silkworms.

Throughout the colonial period, in fact, the British Parliament and the local governments paid subsidies to farmers for the production of cotton, hemp, flax, and sheep.

This early agricultural aid was, however, not a carefully planned program. The main purpose was to help the farmer get started in a new country, by supplying seed for planting first crops and animals for stocking the farm. Once started, the farmer was expected to take care of himself. He usually did so—by hard work.

George Washington, as our first President after we won independence from the British, laid down the principle that aid to agriculture should be made a regular program of the federal government. In his last message to Congress, on December 7, 1796, Washington urged that funds be allocated for help to the farmer. In a growing nation, Washington said, the primary importance of agriculture to national and individual welfare becomes more and more apparent.

Congress did little with Washington's proposal, however, and it took a long time for a government program to develop. State and county farm societies, organized by the farmers themselves, were the big means of improv-

ing the position of agriculture in the early 1800's. By exchanging knowledge and ideas, the farmers in these societies helped each other.

Congress made its first specific appropriation for agricultural purposes in 1839. The sum of \$1,000 was set aside for use by the Commissioner of Patents, who then handled agricultural administration. The commissioner used only \$125.40 of his budget, in the first year. This was used to buy and distribute seeds and to collect statistics on farm production.

Two big steps were taken in 1862. Congress established a regular Department of Agriculture then, although its secretary did not acquire cabinet rank

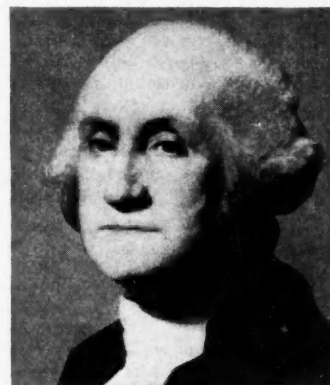
until 1889. In 1862, Congress also passed the first Land Grant Act which gave large tracts of land to the States. Sale of the land provided funds to endow agricultural colleges—which have played such a great part in developing and improving modern methods of farming.

The emphasis on government help, from the beginning of our country to the end of World War I, was almost always on production—how to get bigger crop yields. A few agricultural economists noted the need for better marketing of the crops from time to time, but little action was taken. After the First World War, however, foreign markets for farm goods dropped sharply. Prices fell. Agricultural depression began. The farmer looked to the government for help.

During the 1920's, laws were passed to extend credit to the farmer. The Federal Farm Board was set up in 1929 to promote sale of farm products. In 1930 Congress named an agricultural committee to study foreign markets in which the American farmer might find additional customers.

Farm depression, nevertheless, continued. Year after year, farmers produced more than they could sell. So, under President Roosevelt in 1933, a new method of dealing with the problem was tried. In return for cutting his acreage, the farmer was given cash benefits by the federal government. (See farm article on page 1.)

—By THOMAS F. HAWKINS.



GEORGE WASHINGTON advocated government assistance for farmers, but large-scale projects were not undertaken until after World War I.